Humane Slaughter

HUMANE SLAUGHTER

- The use of humane methods in the slaughter and handling of livestock
  .
  - Prevents needless suffering
  - safer working conditions
  - improves quality of meat products

First Humane Slaughter Law

- Humane Slaughter Act of 1958
  - Voluntary for packers that did not sell to the Federal government
  - Required that animals be rendered insensible prior to slaughter

FSIS REGULATORY BASIS

- Humane Slaughter Act 1978
- CFR 9 Part 313 - Humane Slaughter of Livestock
- Directive 6900.1, Rev.1 issued (11/98)

HUMANE SLAUGHTER ACT of 1978

- Humane methods became mandatory
- Requires that cattle, calves, horses, mules, sheep, goats, swine, and other livestock must be rendered insensible to pain before being shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast, or cut.

Humane Slaughter Act of 1978

- Exemption
  - Ritual slaughter
    - stunning is not required
    - animals die by loss of blood
    - kosher
    - halal

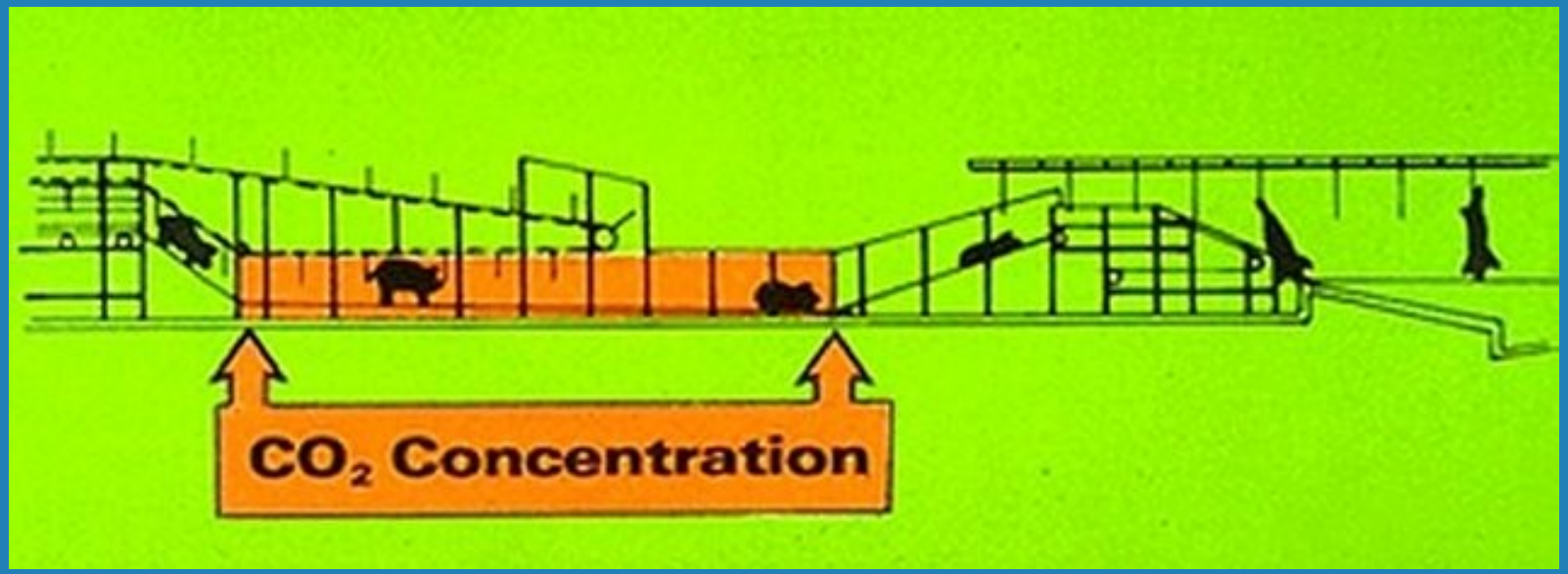
CFR 9 PART 313 STUNNING METHODS

- Chemical, Carbon Dioxide
- Mechanical, Captive Bolt
- Mechanical, Gunshot
- Electrical; stun or slaug

Chemical - Carbon Dioxide

- Approved for swine, sheep, and calves
- Must induce anesthesia quickly and calmly
- Equipment must be in good repair
- Instruments/indicators must be available for inspection
- CO_2 levels must be consistent

Carbon Dioxide Administration



Mechanical Stunning

- Approved for cattle, sheep, swine, goats, and equine
- Two types
  - Captive Bolt
    - powered by air or gunpowder cartridge
    - penetrating
    - non-penetrating
  - Gunshot

Captive Bolt : Penetrating

Captive Bolt : Non-penetrating

Captive Bolt Stunning

- Require well trained operators
- Must be able to consistently produce immediate unconsciousness with one shot
- Air pressure powered guns
  - should have accurate gauges
  - have consistent air pressure
  - adjustable for larger/smaller animals
- All parts of head may be saved for food

Gunshot

- Approved for cattle, calves, sheep, goats, and equine
- Must produce unconsciousness with one shot
- All head tissues must be condemned except the tongue

Gunshot

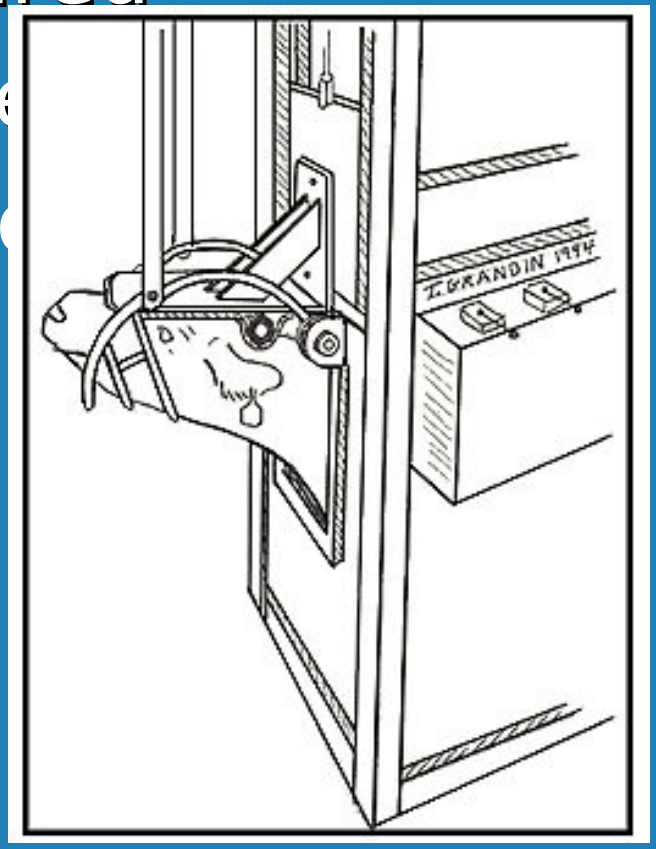
Electrical Stunning

- Approved for hogs, calves, sheep, and goats
- 2 methods depending upon electrode placement
  - head only stunning
    - bleed to stun interval should not exceed 30 secs
  - head to body stunning (cardiac arrest)
    - bleed to stun interval not critical

Electrical Stunning

Ritual Slaughter

- Stunning is not required
- Razor-sharp knife use
- Death due to blood l



CFR 9 Part 313 - Humane Slaughter of Livestock

- 313.1 - Pens, Driveways, and Ramps
  - kept in good repair and free of things that would injure o suffering
  - provide good footi

CFR 9 Part 313

- 313.2 - Handling of Livestock
  - Drive at walk, minimum excitement
  - No sharp objects

CFR 9 Part 313.2 con’t

- Handling of Disabled animals
  - no dragging of conscious animals
- Access to water and feed
  - water at all times
  - feed if held over 24 hours
- Stunning

DIRECTIVE 6900.1,Rev.1 11/98,

- Humane Handling of Disabled Livestock

- Purpose is to ensure humane handling of disabled livestock from time of entering official premises to time of slaughter by humane methods.

Humane Slaughter- Rules of Thumb

- Disabled animals must be humanely handled while on Transport Vehicle
- Conscious disabled livestock cannot be dragged.
- All livestock must be handled and slaughtered humanely

The End